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pany which was reorganized during the war of 1812. The moving spirit in the company was Manuel Lisa, and it was with him that Luttig journeyed in the office of clerk. The expedition was stopped at the Mandan fort by the hostilities of the Indians, who had been stirred up by the British traders.

The journal is of interest as a record of a fur-trader, but it adds little to what is already known on the subject. The notes by Miss Drumm are numerous, full, and valuable. In an appendix are printed three letters from Christian Wilt to Luttig with some longer biographical notes.

C. W. A.

*E. I. Dupont de Nemours and company. A history. 1802-1902.* By B. G. Dupont. (New York: Houghton Mifflin company, 1920. 195 p. \$3.00)

This is a family history of a remarkable family business that was continued for an even century before losing its identity in corporate organization. It contains little information throwing light upon the controverted aspects of the munitions industry, but much upon the history of the great American industrial family, that of Du Pont de Nemours. The founder of the family was a student of Lavoisier, and was brought up in a French government powder plant; he turned to the same trade in America when he had become a political emigrant. Through all the wars of the United States after 1800 the Du Ponts did their work in providing the government with explosives, but the story stops short of the date at which it would have to record the entry into the by-product manufactures. The growing use of explosives for industry is properly stressed.

F. L. P.

*The Quaker colonies.* A chronicle of the proprietors of the Delaware. By Sydney G. Fisher. [The chronicles of America. Edited by Allen Johnson under the supervision of the committee on publications of the Yale university council] (New Haven: Yale university press, 1919. 244 p. \$3.50)

The *Chronicles of America*, of which Mr. Fisher's book is the eighth in a series of fifty volumes, is an enterprise designed to present the history of our country from colonial days to the present "in the living form of a series of short narratives." Each volume has a unity of its own and all are so related as to give a connected vision and knowledge of the length and breadth of our history. The appeal is primarily to "those of our citizens who are not in the habit of reading history"—a most laudable undertaking, for it is certain that the company of those who do not have the habit is large. Judging from Mr. Fisher's little book on the *Quaker colonies*, the average citizen will find the narratives instructive and entertaining. It is written in a lively, picturesque, and inter-

esting way, and all through it there is the note of human interest. At the same time it is good history. The author brings to the task not only a lively pen and imagination, but also a fund of information, anecdote, and knowledge.

Mr. Fisher, having studied and written on Quaker history for some years, knows his subject. He is sympathetic with Quakerism, but not unduly so. He is least sure when he comes to the people of non-Quaker stock who settled in interior Pennsylvania. In his account of the Germans he overstresses the pietist sects and barely mentions the Lutherans and Calvinists who were far more numerous and were not lacking in a certain aggressiveness. There is also too little attention given to the European backgrounds of settlement on the Delaware. What is said of the reasons for the coming of the people is slight and unsatisfactory. Likewise there is insufficient treatment of the external relations of the Quaker colonies, their connection with England and their trade overseas. The author's geography is at fault when he places York and Gettysburg over in the Cumberland valley. But all in all it is a readable and interesting narrative of Pennsylvania, the Jerseys, and little Delaware.

The book is short enough not to weary the reader, the sort of book one can read comfortably in an evening. The pages are not burdened with learned footnotes, and a brief bibliography is appended to invite the reader to go further if he is so inclined. The volumes are models of bookmaking, a delight in binding, paper, and type. But the price per volume, three and a half dollars, at once counteracts the laudable effort to develop the popular habit of reading history. The appeal must also be to the pocketbook, for the people generally have neither the habit of reading history nor the habit of paying much for books.

W. T. Root

*The outline of history.* Being a plain history of life and mankind. 2 volumes. By H. G. Wells. (New York: Macmillan company, 1920. 648, 676 p.)

Mr. Wells in writing of the sectaries that sprang out of the protestant reformation declares: "But the human reason is an obstinate thing and will criticize and select in spite of its own resolutions. The bulk of these new Bible students took what their consciences approved from the Bible and ignored its riddles and contradictions." These two sentences describe with great exactness Mr. Wells's historical method, provided the word "Bible" is changed to "history." Having started, like his "new Bible students," with a belief, he has found throughout the whole development of humanity its justification. Where there arose in his pathway an insurmountable and stubborn fact, he has, like the Pharisee, passed